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Listing of the Pending Claims

The following lists the presently pending claims.

1-9 (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A method for controlling authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code from a computer-readable data medium associated with the computer system, the code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable;
- b. accessing license information for the software component;
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm; and
- d. transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs;

whereby authorization to use the software component is allowed for the computer system associated with the computer-readable data medium and not allowed for a second computer system not associated with the computer-readable data medium having the unique hardware identification code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein additional information is used by the encoding algorithm to generate the identification number.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of identification numbers can be generated for one hardware identification code.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one identification number is stored in a readable and writeable area of the data medium.
14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein additional information may be stored on the data medium.
15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the additional data stored on the data medium comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of license information, licensor identification, and software programs.
16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a component of the computer system.
17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a memory card.
18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the memory card comprises a multimedia card.
19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the data medium comprises a key which contains information.
20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the key comprises a dongle.
21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the computer system comprises a control unit.
22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the identification number is checked by means of a decoding algorithm.
23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein checking for unauthorized use of the software component is performed during startup of the software component.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein checking for unauthorized use of the software component is performed periodically during use of the software component.

25. (previously presented) A method for controlling authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code from a computer-readable data medium associated with the computer system, the code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable;
- b. accessing license information for the software component;
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm;
- d. transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs;
- e. checking the identification number by means of a decoding algorithm; and
- f1. if the decoded identification number matches the encoded information, permitting a user to utilize the software component; or
- f2. if the decoded identification number does not match the encoded information, restricting the user from access to the software component;

whereby authorization to use the software component is allowed for the computer system associated with the computer-readable data medium and not allowed for a second computer system not associated with the computer-readable data medium having the unique hardware identification code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable.

26. (previously presented) A system for controlling authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the system comprising:

- a. means for accessing a unique hardware identification code of a computer-readable data medium associated with the computer system, the code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable;
- b. means for accessing license information for the software component;
- c. means for generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm; and
- d. means for transmitting the identification number to the computer system on which the software component runs;

whereby authorization to use the software component is allowed for the computer system associated with computer-readable data medium and not allowed for a second computer system not associated with the computer-readable data medium having the unique hardware identification code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable.

27. (previously presented) A computer readable medium for controlling a computer to determine authorization to use a software component in the computer, the computer having access to instructions for performing the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code from a computer-readable data medium associated with the computer, the code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable;
- b. accessing license information for the software component;
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm; and

- d. transmitting the identification number to the computer on which the software component runs;

whereby authorization to use the software component is allowed for the computer associated with computer-readable data medium and not allowed for a second computer not associated with the computer-readable data medium having the unique hardware identification code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable.

28. (previously presented) A method for generating an identifier for use in controlling authorization to use a software component of a system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a unique hardware identification code from a computer-readable data medium associated with the system, the code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable;
- b. accessing license information for the software component; and
- c. generating an identification number from the hardware identification code and the license information by means of an encoding algorithm;

whereby authorization to use the software component is allowed for the system associated with computer-readable data medium and not allowed for a second system not associated with the computer-readable data medium having the unique hardware identification code accessed from a portion of the data medium that is readable but not writeable.

29. (previously presented) An identifier for use in determining authorization to use a software component of a computer system, the identifier generated according to the method of claim 28.